tinue to operate till their applications are rejected.

Nationalised Banks involved in Scams

1483. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the nationalised banks which have been found to be involved in scams during the last three years; and

(b) whether responsibility has been fixed and action taken against the persons involved and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Frauds have been detected in all the public sector banks during the last three years. The information relating to number of frauds detected in public sector banks, amount involved and action taken against delinquent employees for their involvement in frauds during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 is given below:

	1994	1995	1996
Number of frauds	2266	1890	1954
Amounts involved (Rs. in lakhs)	20007.88 +Uganda Shillings 9844000	11551.12	31937.63
Action Taken against officials			
(a) No. of employees convicted	50	33	46
(b) No. of employees awarded major/minor penalty	1248	1160	1207
(c) No. of employees dismissed/discharged/removed	360	301	331

Harassment of Customers in PNB Branch, Harinagar

1484. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cheques tendered by the customers of Punjab National Bank branch, Harinagar for clearance are not properly acknowledged by the Bank staff and the customers are asked to put the cheques in a box kept in the Bank premises for the purpose;

(b) whether it is a fact that all the cheques received upto 12.00 noon on a particular day are not sent for clearance with the result that customers got delayed credit which causes inconvenience to them; and

(c) the action proposed by Government/Punjab National Bank to set the system right so as not to cause any inconvenience to customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c). According to the Bank, the system of putting cheques in a box which was introduced to facilitate depositing of cheques even beyond office hours has since been discontinued on the basis of the feed-back received. Now, all the instruments deposited by the customers for clearing are duly acknowledged.

The bank has reported that the branch has now been computerised and all the cheques received upto 12 noon are sent for clearance on the same day. According